

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 1652: N/A

TAGS : PINR SOCI MX

SUBJECT : LAND INVASIONS; FURTHER FARM SEIZURES IN
SOUTHERN SONORA

REF: HERMOSILLO 351

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1. INVASION OF PRIVATELY OWNED FARM LANDS REPORTED REFTEL CONTINUES. THE NUMBER OF CAMPESINOS ON PRIVATE LANDS, WHICH AT ONE POINT REACHED 1500, AVERAGED 350, DURING A WEEKEND OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES RPT REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL SECRETARIAT OF LAND REFORM AND SONORA STATE SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. PROPOSAL OF INVADERS TO SEND A DELEGATION TO MEXICO CITY FOR MEETINGS WITH LAND REFORM SECRETARY ABANDONNED. INSTEAD LAND REFORM UNDER-SECRETARY VICTOR MANUEL TORRES WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT CIUDAD OBREGON NOVEMBER 24 TO MEET WITH THEM. IT WAS ANNOUNCED SUNDAY BY SONORA GOVERNOR CARRILLO MARCOR.

2. TWO CAMPESINO LEADERS HAVE EMERGED DURING PAST COUPLE OF DAYS, BOTH FROM GENERAL UNION OF MEXICAN WORKERS AND PEASANTS (UGOCM) REGIONAL GROUP, JUAN ANGUIS AND GUILLERMO ARCE; THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY A NATIONAL LEADER OF THE UGOCM
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JESUS ORTA GUERRERO. WHILE STILL URGING NON-VIOLENCE, THE

CAMPESINO LEADERS ARE VOWING THAT THEY WILL NOT LEAVE THE SEIZED LANDS UNTIL THE TITLE TO THEM IS GIVEN TO THE CAMPESINOS BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

3. ACCORDING TO THE CAMPESINOS, THEY HAVE WAITED 25 YEARS TO RECEIVE TITLE TO LAND UNDER THE LAND REFORM LAWS, AND THEIR PATIENCE IS NOW EXHAUSTED. THEY QUOTE EMILIANO ZAPATA AS PROCLAIMING THAT THE LAND SHOULD BELONG TO THOSE WHO WORK IT, AND SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THESE FARMS IT SHOULD BELONG TO THEM.

4. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT CAMPESINOS ARE NOW DETERMINED TO CONTINUE AT LEAST A SYMBOLIC OCCUPATION OF THE LANDS AS MEANS OF PRESSURING LAND REFORM SECRETARIAT AND ULTIMATELY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS. THE SONORA STATE GOVERNMENT UNDER CARRILLO MARCOR WILL CERTAINLY NOT RPT NOT TAKE ANY ACTION TO DISLODGE THE OCCUPANTS, AND THE DANGER OF A CONFRONTATION WILL COME FROM THE LANDOWNERS. TWO PROPERTY OWNERS ARE NOW AFFECTED: LUIS OROS AND ENRIQUE POLIN TAPIA BOTH FARM IN THE SAME BLOCK OF THE YAQUI VALLEY RPT YAQUI VALLEY; POLIN TAPIA WAS REPORTED TO BE OPERATING FARM MACHINERY IN THE FIELD ADJACENT TO HIS LAND SEIZED BY THE CAMPESINOS. THIS ACTIVITY WAS TERMED PROVOCATIVE BY CAMPESINO SPOKESMEN. THE KILLING OF EJIDO WORKERS BY RANCHERS IN VERACRUZ STATE AT THE END OF OCTOBER HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN HERE EITHER.
SACKSTEDER

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